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An approach to the integration of the religious service in the Court of Ferdinand the Catholic: his role inside and outside the royal entourage

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ABSTRACT

This research has been carried out in nine of the former bishopric headquarters in New Spain (Mexico, Morelia, Guadalajara, Durango, Álamos, Hermosillo, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mérida, Oaxaca and Puebla). A second part relates a brief reconstruction of the climate in the last four hundred years in Mexico with important events that have already been recognized by other authors in the matter in other latitudes. A third point examines the relationship between the European invasion and the Little Ice Age, which led to significant alterations in the landscape resulting from the consolidation of new means and modes of production as well as significant atmospheric alterations. Finally, the climatic extremes and their relationship with pests and epidemics are analyzed, for example the correlation between periods of droughts and torrential rains with pests such as locusts that had important effects on the population

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Introduction

The first is the contrast between water policy in Mesoamerica and European Mediterranean policy, a change that translated into a transcendental hydraulic transformation particularly in the lacustrine systems of central Mexico. The second case is the management of pre-Hispanic, colonial and later soil, where the genesis and development of new edaphic units related to new agricultural practices, livestock,

hydraulic, etc., introduced by the colonizers that radically transformed the previous characteristics are highlighted. of the floors. The last case presents two sustainable experiences, one colonial and the other nineteenth, that could serve to propose new actions and reduce the negative effects of human activity on the environment, the first being the water galleries and the other the local nature of the purification of waste from residential developments in Mexico City.

To conclude, we consider that the text contains suggestive themes for future investigations in the general reconstructions of the landscape and the organization of the territory in Mexico. It sets out key stages and processes that have resulted in significant changes in the landscape and that can serve as a benchmark for analysis at other scales. Likewise, studies at the local level will allow to qualify, enrich and contrast the conclusions of this study and the general considerations that it presents. Finally, we believe that the text grants a new incentive to historical geography to renew its interdisciplinary approach in its analysis of the society-medium relationship by incorporating the temporal element as essential.

In this sense, as mentioned Fernández (2012) In the presentation of the work reviewed here, one of its main contributions is to present the conciliation of different dilemmas in geography through several investigations where the differences between physical and human geography are not perceived. Showing that exceeding disciplinary borders gives a greater analytical capacity. To do the skills of the author to incorporate these areas of knowledge are highlighted that following the proposal cited above Sauer, integrate an exhaustive field work and archival work to find the landscape of the past hidden behind the scenery of this (Sauer, 2009 [1941]).

Gustavo G. Garza Merodio has done extensive research in this line as for example in his doctoral thesis *Evolution in the landscape of the Basin of Mexico during the Spanish domination* and in his study on historical climatology, of which he presents a synthesis in the volume reviewed. He carried out his doctorate at the University of Barcelona in Geography and History. He is currently a researcher at the Geography Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico and teaches undergraduate and graduate programs in Geography in subjects such as Landscape Evolution and Cultural Heritage and Environmental History at the same university. His research interests are Historical Geography, Cultural Geography, Paleo environmental Studies and Historical Climatology Studies.

As for the structure of the book, it is divided into a succinct introduction, a first chapter on the general and above all theoretical aspects of historical geography and the environment; to then develop three chapters with examples of historical geography studies in Mexico about the society-medium relationship.

The inclusion of environmental issues in geography, in general, and in historical geography in particular, provides a greater potential for analysis and an explanatory power that far exceeds the results of the partition of knowledge. The society-environment relationship, which is at the center of geographic research (Davis, 2011), is based on the incorporation of biophysical and social knowledge into one. The same title of the work reviewed here suggests this integration that has sometimes been ignored but has a long tradition within geography. one To cite an example, Carl O. Sauer (2009 [1941]: 21) in your text *Towards a historical geography* He mentions that "who exercises human geography and can not observe and interpret physical data in relation to his studies of human economies, has only limited competence." His idea of a historical geography as an analysis of origins and processes, is supported by the

statement that both human geography and history are not very different fields but different approaches to the same problem.

In the brief introduction the author focuses on the importance of environmental issues for the geography and in particular for historical geography. So that the latter can be considered as a "theoretical vehicle in the understanding of the society-environment relationship" (Garza, 2012a : 17); relationship whose knowledge allows to recognize "the causes of anthropic origin in the alterations suffered by the environment" (Ibid.:18).

The first chapter presents a summary of the development of historical geography as well as its importance "in the understanding of environmental issues and the theoretical and methodological limitations that have impeded an appreciation of this discipline in the solution of environmental problems" (Ibid. : 27). And mention is made of new paradigms that have led historical geography to integrate new knowledge and renew its approach, such as the consideration of social, economic, ideological and cultural relations in the analysis of space and as factors that affect the absence or presence of elements in space. Another general aspect that the author alludes to are the spatial and temporal scales as necessary analysis elements in a temporal examination of the geographic processes.

From the above, the chapter is divided into four sections that address theoretical, methodological issues and contextualize the three chapters that present concrete results of the author's research. In the first section entitled "Landscape, territory and historical geography", the conception raised by the author of the "landscape" is highlighted as a methodological possibility for the analysis of space, not as a portion of it, and a brief description of the schools that have used the landscape as a guiding concept in their studies. Continues with the definition of territory and its historical component in their shape over time, like the previous concept of landscape, are the basis for studies in historical geography. In this way, it is shown that being geographically interdisciplinary from the beginning, geography finds in landscape studies one of its best analytical tools due to its integral nature (Ibid.:38). To conclude this section, the author introduces seven approaches that summarize the definition of historical and cultural geography for the work that allow, in addition, to differentiate the geographical task of other disciplines and where it stands out, for example, the importance of the revision of the cartography of all times and field work.

A second section called "Evolution of the landscape and the territory", is a synthesis of the evolution of the landscape and the organization of the territory in Mexico during the last five hundred years divided into four very general stages. It begins with the late post-classic, with the *altepetl* as the basic political-territorial structure in Mesoamerica; continues with the Spanish domination initiated in the century xvi, stage that extends to the century xix the changes in the means and modes of production were not transcendental; the next stage extends from the consolidation of the liberal regimes (1870) to the post-revolutionary governments (1920), with rail and other technical innovations transforming the landscape and organizing the territory; and finally, the consolidation stage of the postrevolutionary governments (1930-1940) up to the present, with the advent of neoliberalism and the dismantling of the State.

The next section, "The school of Annales and the analysis of duration ", although shorter than the previous ones, delves into the theoretical-methodological possibilities of the historiographic school of the Annales, as well as in the proposals of

the different durations that are fundamental in the construction and evolution of the landscape and the organization of the territory.

Finally, "Cultural rotation and spatialization of social science: historical geography, cultural geography and the environment" develops the link between historical geography and cultural geography, as well as the ways in which both complement each other in the diachronic analysis of landscapes and territories since they have methods that allow to interweave the biophysical and human aspects. It also shows how the spatialization of social science enriched geography by placing it at the center of debates in social science and in counterpart, other social sciences have been renewed by including space as one more factor for the understanding of the social.

From chapter two, three examples of studies are presented in historical geography in Mexico.

Here it should be noted that the title of section two ("Three approaches to the society-medium relationship from historical geography in Mexico") can be confusing because it refers to chapter two as well as three and four that continue to be part of the three approaches. Actually, the second chapter is only an example. In this way we will consider the three cases together that, according to their subject, are: historical climatology; the landscape and the Mesoamerican territory and its transformation during the century xvi; and ruptures and continuities in the management of the environment in Mexico between the centuries XVI Y XXI.

In terms of historical climatology, the example is divided into four parts that show the work done by the author and its relationship with other research carried out, especially in Europe and North America. For example, the first part presents the use of documentary sources (*rogativas pro lluvia*) to reconstruct the climate during the last four hundred years as an additional tool in these studies. To this end, the author believes that precipitation is the most important climatic variable and not temperature, as it happens in other latitudes. This research has been carried out in nine of the former bishopric headquarters in New Spain (Mexico, Morelia, Guadalajara, Durango, Álamos, Hermosillo, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Mérida, Oaxaca and Puebla). A second part relates a brief reconstruction of the climate in the last four hundred years in Mexico with important events that have already been recognized by other authors in the matter in other latitudes. A third point examines the relationship between the European invasion and the Little Ice Age, which led to significant alterations in the landscape resulting from the consolidation of new means and modes of production as well as significant atmospheric alterations. Finally, the climatic extremes and their relationship with pests and epidemics are analyzed, for example the correlation between periods of droughts and torrential rains with pests such as locusts that had important effects on the population.

The second example, "The landscape and the Mesoamerican territory and its transformation during the long century xvi", focuses on the abandonment of mountainous areas that were priorities under the Mesoamerican worldview and how it was transited towards the concentration of activity in the alluviums and flat lands that, under European perspectives represented the most suitable spaces for agricultural activity, livestock and human settlements (except for the mountain areas where some mining activity was carried out). Similarly, the section is divided into three sections, the first entitled "The mountain: its perception and management in prehispanic Mexico" where the mountain concept is highlighted as "a symbol of civilization and referents in the construction of the landscape and the basis of the

organization of the territory " (Ibid.: 78) and presents as an example of case studies the Meztlán area and the Tenango-Atlatlahuaca area, 3 among others. The second section highlights the abandonment of ecotones, which during the pre-Hispanic period allowed the use of the environmental richness of the different environmental floors and slopes for agricultural purposes. So the colonists' attention was focused on alluviums and flat areas. The latter leads us to the third part that analyzes this preference for flat spaces and the great edaphic transformation (loss of soil and vegetation) that meant the change of land use coupled with climatic conditions, which, as mentioned, were especially adverse.

Organization of space in Colonial Mexico. Ports, cities and roads, pp. 305-329

Here it should be noted that both the title of this work and some sections makes use of the concepts "medium" and "environment" as a single category, but if we consider that every medium is environment, it falls into a tautology. For example, in chapter one that is also called "Historical geography and environment" are references to this category as in the "society-environment relationship", "environmental issues", the "relationship between societies and their environment" or the "environmental floors" (pp. 27, 30, 31 and 41). But we also find allusions such as "influence of the environment on the human being" (p.30) or "link environment and culture" (p.95). Therefore we consider that in some cases there is repetition in the use of the concepts and it is not used rigorously through the text.

Regarding this particular topic (the intense occupation of the flat areas by the colonizers), I would like to comment that the text can become repetitive since it is mentioned in several of the sections. For example, reference is made to it in the first chapter (page 45), through chapter three (pp. 78, 82 and 85-87) and also in chapter 4 (page 93) in the example on soil management.

For a more extensive analysis on these areas, developed by the same author, we refer the reader to the chapter "Margins of the Southern Altiplano: Pre-Hispanic strategic spaces, non-priority spaces from the beginning of the century xvi "(Garza, 2012b).

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